

Summertime After-school Programs

The sun is shining, the air is warm, and school is letting out for the summer. That's great news if you're a kid, but can cause stress if you're a working parent who now needs to find a safe place for your children to spend the day while you're at your job.

"Afterschool" care is child care that is needed for any out-of-school time—including before school, after school, and during summer time and holidays when school is not in session.

The Department of Workforce Services' Office of Work & Family Life works with organizations throughout the state to improve the quality, supply and affordability of afterschool programs in Utah through grant programs, training, and other initiatives.

The afterschool hours are critical for Utah's youth: studies indicate that most juvenile crime occurs during the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; that children are more likely to become victims of crime, to be in or cause a car crash, to be killed in household or other accidents, to get hooked on cigarettes and/or experiment with dangerous drugs during those hours.

But there's help available. Quality afterschool programs boost school success and high school graduation, as well as provide activities that build character and reduce obesity.

The Afterschool Alliance sums it up:

Afterschool programs...provide kids with academic support that inspires them to learn. They help keep them safe and healthy

during the afternoon hours when juvenile crime rates soar, and constructively engaged when they might otherwise be getting into trouble on the streets, or perhaps taking drugs, joining gangs or engaging in other inappropriate behaviors.

You can learn more about afterschool programs in your area at the links below, or call your area's Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (CCR&R). You can find your local CCR&R at <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/occ/occ2/ccrandrcontact.html>. Be sure to ask for a copy of the useful Afterschool Summer Guide!

- AfterSchool Utah! Association
www.afterschoolutah.org
- Afterschool Alliance
www.afterschoolalliance.org
- Afterschool.gov
<http://afterschool.gov>
- Afterschool Scene
www.afterschoolscene.com ⓘ

For a list of all of the occupations in the work experience category see <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/trendlines/marapr08/workexperience.xls>

